# FEEDBACK

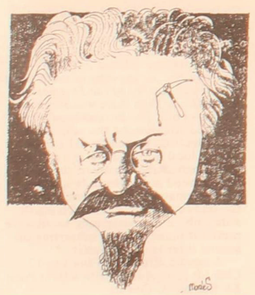
## Letters Received

*Dear Black Flag,*

*We were disappointed with your article 'The Which Guide to Workers' Vanguards' in BF163. Not only was the selection of groups quite arbitrary (why leave out Workers Power, Socialist Organiser and the Leninist which are bigger than the CPB (M-L) but some of the facts were wrong. The RCP's origins are not at all obscure, they are an RCG split. There was no serious attempt to criticise the groups concerned on a rational political basis.*

*Instead the author was content to dismiss them mainly on the grounds that they (shock,horror) have student members. This is substituting insult for proper argument. The class composition of any organisation will always be related to the level of working class struggle, and in periods of low class confidence students will tend to have an influence disproportionate to their numbers. This is because students have pitifully low standards of living, they have more time for political activity and because they are usually young with no family responsibilities. The presence of students does not in itself invalidate the whole of leftist politics. we still need to address ourselves to the political arguments.*

*Black Flag's 'anti-studentism' and the anti-intellectualism it implies, sits uneasily alongside the absurd and reactionary quote by Professor Lorenz Gans with which you introduce your article. You condemn radical students out of hand but at the same time find it necessary to endorse your article with the pseudo-scientific stamp of authority of a bourgeois social scientist. Psychoanalysts have for years propounded the myth that revolutionaries are motivated by unconscious desires to repeat infantile sexual scenarios. We totally reject these reductionist attempts to stigmatise and marginalise revolutionaries. There are plenty of bourgeois critiques of Trotskyism but we do not need them to back up our arguments, which are made from a completely different perspective — we criticise the Trotskyists not because they are 'deranged' but because their methods lead to the dictatorship of the party rather than the*



*class.*

*When the right cannot win arguments in an honest way it resorts to characterising political opponents as mentally ill, unstable, criminal etc. It is a tactic that has been used against anarchists for ages; it is certainly not fit to be used by anarchists. Putting the word 'imperialism' in inverted commas implies that it is the figment of someone's imagination. Presumably the ideal response would be 'imperialism? what the fucking hell's that? This lot must be a right bunch of loonies!' This type of journalism is designed to provoke not rational thought but a mere gut reaction.*

*Dividing the world into good Anarchists and Bad Marxists is simplistic nonsense. During the early seventies hundreds of working class militants joined the SWP for lack of any visible political alternative. Even today there are undoubtedly people in the SWP and similar groups who could be won over to anarchists ideas, as is proved by the number of people who have come into our movement from these backgrounds. If we are going to continue to attract people away from leftist groups then we need a coherent critique of Bolshevik methods, not just a collection of superficial trivia. To accomplish this project in such a brief space is perhaps impossible; but then Black Flag used to say that if it could not be witty and informative it would skip an issue. If these criteria had been applied you need not have troubled your printers that week.*

**D.A., T.W. (SW—London)**

**REPLY:** Some people will walk into a trap. . . How do our correspondents, who could not possibly have heard of Prof. Ludwig Gans before, who for all they know is a professor of card tricks or a figment of imagination, know he's a 'reactionary' or a 'bourgeois'? Are *they* 'anti-intellectual'? Marxists always cite some professor or other with a pompous sounding book; it always deflates them when you invent your own.

Our correspondents insist we should not be beastly to the Bolsheviks and call us 'anti-student'. The educated class, the scholars or academics, were put forward originally by Marxists as the leaders who come from outside of the working class, 'capable of only a trade union consciousness'. We utterly reject this rubbish, which was in the twenties rehashed as leadership by 'the intellectuals' — but the 'intellectuals' didn't get any intellect by calling themselves so in fact. This line is still peddled by George Woodcock; we have styled them 'failed mandarins'.

Now it is 'the students' who come in from outside. But there is competition. Oratory has yielded to music: it is the pop singers who are the 'leaders' of the young working class. We aren't against music, we aren't against intellect, we are not against study: we *are* against pomposity, pretension and leadership. Geddit?

It is a comforting thought to vanguards to suppose that the poverty of the students drives them to rebellion, but the hooray henries who lead student rebellion are well into the established. Even Cohn-Bendit (Danny 'the Red' of the May '68 French general strike and occupations) has finished up selling out. Look at the subsequent career of Dutschke, Tariq Ali Paul Foot countless dozens and dozens of student activists who when they've done what was amusing to do in establishing their radicalism, finish up in the managerial classes and liberal professions. Students from working class backgrounds can — and often do — fight for their rights but we still don't accept them as leaders. If it were stated that artists, watchmakers carpenters or Christmas calendar manufacturers should lead the revolution, we should be equally 'anti-artist', anti-watch maker' and what have you. . .

We do grant that our list of Parties was not complete. To the making of Marxist-Leninist Parties there is no end. There will always be one more to undercut and undersell the last. That it is in any way reflective of the working class level of struggle could only be said by someone who sees 'hundreds' of working class youth in the SWP or gravely claims to have read about 'parapsychological politics' and rejects it.

Oh, and did those 'professors of revolution' Marx & Engels — and Stalin and Trotsky too — never make any jokes about Anarchists? If accusing someone of an Oedipus complex is 'reactionary', what about accusing them of an 'infantile disorder'?

*Dear Flag,*

*You keep on about Marxists but at least the language they use is clear and concise and that's more than can be said about some of the articles in Black Flag (references to 'ringers' for instance! Get a hint on how to write from Trotsky!)*

*Can't you get it into your heads that whether you like it or not, Marxists are comrades in the struggle, and there is time enough after the revolution to decide whether you go along with them all the way or not?*

*Sincerely, Dalland White (London)*

**Reply:** Sorry for the use of esoteric words from the language of horse racing, which no member of the working class could be expected to understand. In future we will use such clear and concise phrases from Trotsky as 'The Forces of Thermidor', which are much more instantly recognisable.

Replying to the question, no we can't get it into our heads, and there may not be time after Leninist-type power seizures to retain them.

## An Obituary

MARIA SPIRIDONOVA

*One hundred years ago* this year Maria Spiridonova was born. She must now be dead. . . she vanished fifty years ago from human ken.

Maria Spiridonova was a Social-Revolutionary. Her party was often confused with the Anarchists because of their militancy in opposing the Tsarist regime. Years later they became allies opposing Bolshevism, but when the Russian Revolution broke out they were split: the so-called 'Right' SRs supporting Kerensky, the 'Left' SRs supporting Lenin. Their programme was a dictatorship of the peasantry, as opposed to a dictatorship of the proletariat in which the Leninists ostensibly believed.

During the Tsarist regime, the SRs accepted the need for *revolutionary terrorism*. The term had a far different meaning from today. They believed that terrorism against certain guilty individuals was the only safeguard against mass terrorism by the State. Unlike the Nihilists, who also believed in that form of revolutionary terrorism, but thought no social change possible in Russia because of its despotism and corruption causing the apathy of the peasants, they believed in social revolution and were opposed to the Social-Democrats, who accepted Marxism, and were split into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks (who were constitutionalists).

Maria Spiridonova shot a Tsarist general who had carried out massacres. She suffered torture and rape and was sent to Siberia, but became the heroine of Russia. When the Revolution came she returned to lead her party, but the 'Left' SRs co-operation with the Bolsheviks ended with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, they became persecuted again, they returned to individual attacks on the tyrants (Dora Kaplan shot Lenin), and once more co-operated with the Anarchists. Maria Spiridonova went back to prison. . .

## Bits & Pieces

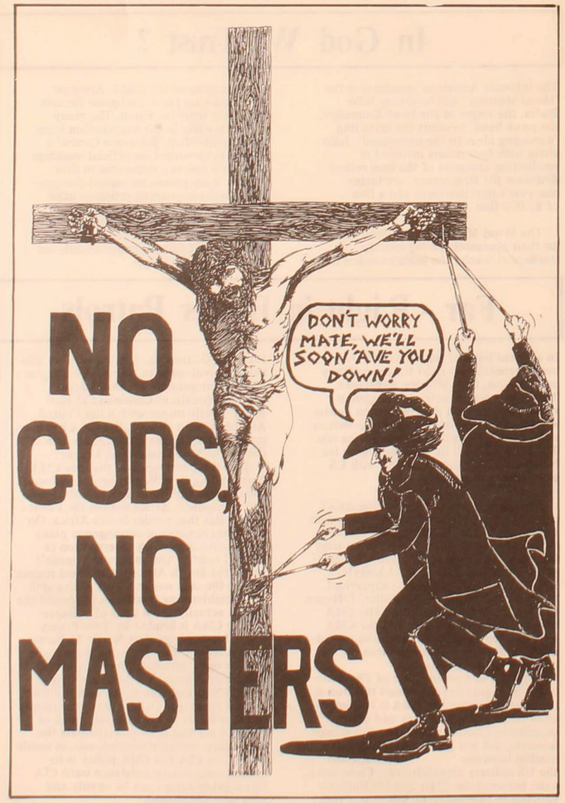
NO GREEN IN OUR EYE

The Greenies denounced *Black Flag* in the so-called *Green Anarchist* for supporting nuclear energy because — *Black Flag*, denouncing capitalism, said its abolition would mean a *thousandfold benefit* to famine-stricken people.

The Greenies, true to a middle class background they cheerfully flaunt, cannot see that capitalism supports a privileged class on the backs of those they patronise with pious wishes and charity collecting boxes. Smash capitalism and you eradicate the parasites that make people poor in a world of plenty. The greenies think capitalism is a myth, so when we talk of the benefits that would accur from its abolition they think it could only be from Jesus-like miracles, or, in a secular version, from dramatic scientific changes that do not exist. They'll do anything for the poor — except get off their backs.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF (MORAL) AUTHORITY.

November, and a Sunday newspaper complains: 'For years the BBC has shown floods of pornography and violence on television. Naked women prance and vile brutality flourishes.' This heartfelt cry for morality is from. . . the *News of the World*. (the Rupert Murdoch owned scab produced sex 'n aggro shock horror rag).




No. 165

BLACK FLAG

THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

30p

15-12-86

# Youth Take To The Streets

**France appears a lot in the news these days. First, under the pretext of anti-terrorist struggle, they arrest or expel for any reason, refusing to see that TOO MUCH IS REALLY TOO MUCH! And now again, they do not hesitate to kill and to injure. CRS (riot cops) shoot at head level! Results: one student loses an eye (he is a member of the Brittany comrades from the French Anarchist Federation), another one loses a hand and one is murdered. Heart attack? This is what the autopsy says. Witnesses confirm that the cops beat him black and blue. Democratic violence does not have to be envious of fascist violence! The facts:**

* 6th May 1986: The Groupe de la Coordination Libertaire Anarchiste (CLEA), an anarchist students group, organised a meeting 'to decide together on actions to take' against the Monory and Devaquet proposals (Minister of Education and Minister of Universites). The response was general apathy of students and of politicians-unions who wait for October the beginning of the University year.

* Beginning of July 1986: small posters are put up to inform students of the law project. The 26th June *Le Monde Libertaire* where two pages talk about students struggling against Devaquet's project is distributed in several Universities of Paris by the CLEA.



* 16th October 1986: a General Assembly (GA) organised by UNEF-ID (Student Union under the control of Socialists) in an ampitheatre attracts 400 people. The law project is discussed and it is decided to make students more aware.

* 11th November 1986: UNEF-SE (the Communist Party manipulated Students Union) organise one GA which attracts about 100 people where a debate between Socialists and Communists about the best way to fight the project eveolves. The students criticise this behaviour as 'Church quarrels' which are not their business.

* 13th November: One GA in an 'amphi' attracts 400 people) where the law project is discussed and the principle of a strike is voted on as soon it will be too late.

* 17th November: the strike starts. 'They go into other classes. 'They' explain the consequences of the project (the main points of the project are that the 'BAC' — an examination comparable to the A level in Britain — will not be sufficient anymore to get into University. After the second year of University the DEUG — which allows students to progress to the third year — will not be sufficient any more. Degrees will not have the same value whether you pass them at Paris-Assas (University where the extreme right dictate their law), at Nanterre, in the suburbs or at Toulouse, in the provinces. Fees, as a first step will be doubled depending on Universities. Privatised, capital will enter the University allowing the Scientific Research to work only for Comapnies.) to students.

* 18th November 1986: at Noon, the students take stock of the project in the amphi at a GA of 600 people. With a few abstentions they strike unanimously.

* 19th November 1986: The information continues calling upon students to strike but a lot of them stayed home. At 11am to revote the strike, some UNEF-ID call a GA. They are denounced as manipulators by other non-unionised students and the CLEA who want a real reflection on the strike and real protest action, before the movement is demobilised because of inaction. Those who want action, who refuse union-politician recuperation create the 'Conseil d'Action Etudiant (CAE) and go to the University of St-Denis a town in the North of Paris. Here a strike committee prepares proposals for action which are presented to a GA at 4pm. It works very well with non-manipulated commissions (Unions are not well implanted: less than 3% of the election vote). They propose a demonstration, but this fails due to the intervention of militants of the Socialist UNEF-ID.

* 20th November 1986: things are getting worse. Teachers are not there anymore, students go home, and at 11am 'they' revote the strike, 'they' demobilise the movement, 'they' Stalinise. Even a demo called by UNEF-SE (Communist Party) is a failure. Besides all this the CAE go on sticking up posters, publishing leaflets explaining the law project and calling to continue the strike.

* 21st November: it is the Unic Party (UNEF-ID) who speak. Even the communists do not talk. When the CAE proposals are discussed people agree, despite the small numbers going to St-Denis (thanks to the UNEF-ID) where the students do strike. In the demonstration there is no acronym, the students succeed imposing unity amongst the politicians and in the street.

Elsewhere, the Socialist Party (through UNEF-ID) look for a good response and image amongst youngsters, in order that they will vote for 'The Rose' in 1988. The students' struggle runs the risk of being a new fight between political parties and for 'State not private schools' to pick up votes.

* 4th December: more than 800,000 students and pupils are in the streets of France (more than 500,000 in Paris). The Minister refuses to suppress the law project regardless. Anger, violence. A lot of injured, two in very bad shape. At 10pm a CRS van is burning on Alexandre III Bridge. After 11.00pm 4,000 demonstrators walk towards the Sorbonne University, 3-4,000 were walking to meet their comrades. Just before midnight, they were about 2,000 and stopped for the night. They were told that a second demonstrator had lost one hand (the first losing his eye around 10.00pm).

* 5th December 1986: a new demonstration with more than 30,000 people New attacks by the CRS result in a students' death.

* 6th December 1986: new demonstration with more than 30,000 demonstrators in Paris. Protests from different organisationa are sent to the Minister of Police Charles Pasqua who was the boss of the SAC, the extreme right wing movement created after the war in Algeria. Also protested to are Jacques Chirac (Prime Minister); and to the Minister of Education Monory and the Minister of Universites Devaquet. M.Devaquet proposes to resign his power.

At least 200,000 people marched through the streets of Paris on Wednesday 10 December, and an equal number of people demonstrated outside Paris. They were celebrating the dropping of the projected University reform bill, and paying tribute to Malik Oussekine, who was killed by police during the riots, and others injured by CRS thugs.

We've also heard that during the disturbances the French Anarchist Federation's bookshop (in rue Amelot) was attacked by a fascist who threw a tear-gas cannister into the shop on Sunday evening. No-one was seriously injured. The attack followed a statement by the French Interior Minister blaming Anarchists for the riots.

*C.L.E.A.*
*145 rue Amelot,*
*75011 Paris. France.*

## PLESSEY WORKER JAILED

**James Abra was an ordinary technician — a very good one, admittedly — working for the Plessey Company. Plessey's like a good many British companies, go on trading with Libya and were doing so all the time the miners' union was being denounced by the Tories in the press for having accepted a donation from the Libyan unions in support of their strike.**

James Abra has no political interests. He was sent to Libya, and to Libya he went. He had been requested by the Libyan authorities via Plessey to work on a radar system installed by Plessey's, and he naturally took with him related non-classified information which he needed to do his job effectively. All of it was available in *Janes*, none of it related to State secrets. Without it there was no point in going to Libya.

He did his job and went to Tripoli airport to take the plane home. He was arrested at Customs and charged with 'selling secrets to foreign States'. In his possession were details of his own installations and a few street maps to enable him to get around. *This was in June 1985* three days after Mrs Thatcher had made yet another speech slamming Colonel Gadaffi (Qathafi) over the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. He has been in jail ever since.

Jim Abra was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was taken as a hostage but as the Libyan authorities pretended he was a spy, the British authorities did not act on his behalf, and Amnesty International don't cover people 'charged' with espionage or violence.

He was held in intolerable conditions in Tripoli until 12th April 1986, the hearing of his case being constantly deferred. The Libyans insisted he change his English solicitor for a Libyan; the trial was conducted in Arabic of which he speaks a bare minimum. During the trial he was put in a cage like a zoo animal, listening to a verdict delivered in Arabic. When translated, he learned he would have to face life imprisonment which in Libya means that (the judge said, 'You will have to stay here till you die').

He was not allowed to talk to the British Consul or to Plessey's representatives. In June he was transferred to even worse conditions in Benghazi Jail, where he is allowed no visitors, no parcels, no letters. The British Foreign Office, in reply to enquiries, say he is 'fine'. For over 17 months he has been lying there in appalling conditions.

A colleague's wife — not unnaturally interested in the case since her husband too could be sent to Libya — contacted her MP, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, who elicited a reply from Mr. Tim Eggar of the Foreign Office that 'as I sure you will understand the case is still sub judice, we cannot take any action'.

This rubbish of 'sub judice' has been shot down by the Speaker of the House of Commons in another case when he overruled Mrs Thatcher on the spy case in Australia; it cannot be *sub judice* if it is in another country. (The rule means that you can't say anything while a trial is pending or current in case you influence the jury).

Plessey's are carrying on trading in Libya. In the spirit of the English duke who told his Irish tenants that they little knew his temper if they thought they could intimidate him by shooting his bailiff, they cannot be intimidated by so trivial a matter as having the occasional technician locked up for life. They have others.

H.M. Government have abandoned Jim Abra because he is an embarrassment — people have no right to get themselves locked up abroad and expect the Foreign Office to dance around.

*Continued on Page 7*

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*For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation – against State control and all forms of government and economic oppression. To establish a share in the general prosperity for all – the breaking down of racial, religious, national and sex barriers – and to fight for the life of one world.*

# HOME NEWS

## Barclays Soft Shoe Shuffle

**From early Monday morning November 24th the media's story of the day was without a doubt, the not unexpected news that Barclay's Banking sysiem had decided to withdraw from South Africa. Timothy Bevan made the announcement that the majority of the shares were to be bought by three South African consortiums, with whom Barclays have had a close relationship. These three are the Anglo-American Corporation, De Beers Consolidated Mines and Southern Life Association.**

We are witnesses to a fantastic public relations exercise. Throughout the media on Monday it was stated that the price of the 29 million shares was to be R18 each, the total received was to be R527 which is equal to 82 million approx.

In the *Financial Times* on Tuesday a more sobering chord was being struck in several articles. In one of them it said: *Because the proceeds have to be repatriated through the financial rand rather than through the commercial rand the final profit will be £6 million approx.*

This transfer will take several months and Barclays *will continue to co-operate with the South African institution in areas like technology and training.*

Loans totalling £700 million will be affected and this includes £538 million to Barnat, which is the trading name of Barclays National of South Africa.

Even a rudimentary understanding of basic economies should be enough to suggest that what Barclays are doing is a cosmetic exercise.

The *FT* in an editorial on 25/11/'86 said: *It does not seem likely to do any noticeable damage to the South African system; on the contrary, it has produced a potential seige economy with a sophisticated and now independent backing group on the cheap.*

Barnat have assets of R18.75 billlion and deposits of R16.86 million which together produced a net income of R107.3 million in the nine months to September 1986. One of the reasons for selling up was that Barnat 'only' contributed 2% of Barclays international profits. It doesn't sound much at first but considering that during the five years 1980-1984 inclusive, Barclays made £1,611, 200, 000 profits that means £32 million of those profits came from Barnat.

The struggle against finance capital multinational companies and the various types of State they support and defend is very much inseparable. Don't become complacent, don't be conned. Smash the South African State, keep on smashing Barclays!

## Crocodile Tears Department

**The BBC was sued by two right-wing Tory MPs for being portrayed in a programme – research by a Young Conservative leader – which revealed their extreme right wing tendencies.**

The BBC was forced to drop its defence by the intervention of the newly appointed chairman ex-*Times* Marmaduke Hussey, a political appointee of the Conservative Prime Minister, and hand out £20,000 apiece 'damages' to the precious pair – more than most people accumulate for a lifetime of hard work. (If workers do they are accused, castigated as greedy by the middle class!)

This has triggered off a feud between Norman Tebbit, Conservative hatchet man, against the BBC for its 'Left Wing Bias'. Who knows what the hatchet faced Tebbit would have made of accusations



Neil Hamilton

at Tories similar to that levelled by the media at Anarchists? But there is more to it than a feud. Tebbit takes for granted what most Tories do not choose to say: he wants a police state, similar to the one advocated by the two who have received a fortune for denying that they do.

In a lawyers' state such as we have it is impossible for him to totally muzzle the media, but he is impatient that it has not yet been done. Most people think of the BBC as part and parcel of the establishment, he cannot tolerate that it does not take orders directly from the Conservative Party chairman.

But the old problem of dictatorship is that until it is established more than one is in the running for Fuehrer. Rupert Murdoch, for instance, is buying up firm after firm in a bid for supreme economic power. The picket at Wapping is a thorn in his flesh. The government has tailored the laws. The judges give decisions in his favour. Still he cannot wipe them out of existence. He has got impatient with the government which regards him as 'failing in public relations' (a nice way of saying he is an embarrassment to them). Strange that Tory MPs one after the other fall victims to sexual exposures in his papers!

Another danger lurks in the wings for the Rightists. The simple faith that animates both types of fundamentalism – capitalist and Christian – breeds the failed guru as con. Unable to set sufficient of the simple souls to elevate themselves to stardom, the gurus turn to financial wizardry to relieve the worthy middle class of their possessions. Political failure may not directly be the means to financial success. Though in the case of Jeffrey Archer financial failure made him a literary success and revived his fortunes to become a millionaire and political success before the Murdoch journos caught him out. In the case of Lyndon La Rouche in the United States, falling from political influence may lead to financial trickery. His supporters were persuaded to reveal their credit card numbers which meant opening their deposits to the guru, and La Rouche is hardly the first – or the thousand and first – guru to decide that his need was greater than theirs.

Like the Litigant Tendency here, he cries witchhunt, witchhunt, but a search of his secrets by FBI agents have revealed no witches but a heap of supporters' cash.

N.B. The two conservative MPs involved in the law suit were Neil Hamilton and Gerald Howarth.

## Heil Hatton !

**It is disappointing to see those leading faces of Militant (Tony Mulhearn and Derek Hatton) at the Confederation of British Industry conference last week. Perhaps the Tapeworm Tendency is so afraid of losing its present host that it is considering entering the CBI, no doubt to draw out the 'Socialists' within it.**

More entertaining however was the Militant Royal Albert Hall gathering. This little get-together seemed to be carried off with all the style and subtlety of a Nuremburg Rally of '30s Germany.

The Militant faithful were presented with giant pictures of their leaders most hated enemies. These of course resulted in the expected Pavlovian response:
Neil Kinnock: Boo, hiss, traitor!
Larry Whitty: Boo, hiss, traitor!
Goldstein (E?): Boo, hiss, traitor!
At any moment we might expect them to break into Orwellian chants:
War is peace! Ignorance is strength! Militant is part of the Labour Party!

The proceedings are lightened by a cabaret, including a magician producing 'socialist conjuring tricks' (like preventing Kinnock and crew throwing them out of the Labour Party).

On strut Militant's dynamic duo, Very Big Brother and Very Big Mouth, who proceed to harangue the organisation they have spent years encouraging people to join. The Labour Party is hammered with more ferocity than at a thousand Tory conferences.

Money rushes in with a flood that would rival an evangelist meeting, you wonder where it all comes from until you realise the bars are empty!

As a grand finale through the smokey mist and laser beams goose-step the London youth marchers in uniform red caps and overalls. Everything reinforces the imposing slogan: MILITANT, MILITANT, MILITANT.

They might call it socialism but I don't!

Source: T.M.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: *Doesn't liberation begin in your stomach?*

A: No. We have some sympathy with those who think vegetarian/vegan diets are morally good and better for one's health and it will still be a problem for a free society. But the implication in the question is simply untrue, just as is the older, hippy one that revolution begins in the bedroom, or the older-still yarn that liberation/revolution begins in school.

Everything begins in economics and so in the place of work. You can be uninhibited, morally sound, healthy, sensitive and wise but if you aren't economically liberated you still toil away. Many kid themselves are all things, bar economically liberated, and like to kid others that this doesn't count because it's almost impossible to achieve personally except by going into capitalism and depriving others.

Ecological problems are the result of commercial exploitation and the only way to achieve an ecological balance is by a social revolution. It is more doubtful if people after a social revolution could achieve a vegan diet – who would, even in a free society let alone in a capitalist one, look after pigs, cows and sheep – as pets? – if farming them for us ceased? Without a luxury standard of living, vegetarianism outside the health shop zone of Southern England is a problem, but that isn't to say vegetarianism as such don't have anything to contribute to anarchistic thinking.

## STATE OF PLAY

'17.12.85 to 17.11.86

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Printing costs so far | 4999.00 | |
| Stationery | 507.95 | |
| Postage | 798.00 | |
| Wages | 00.00 | |
| | | 6304.95 |
| Subs and sales | 1883.07 | |
| Donations* | 2223.43 | |
| Royalties | 289.43 | |
| | | 4395.93 |
| deficit | | 1909.02 |
| Previous deficit c. forward | | 4231.97 |
| New deficit | | £6140.99 |

(Borrowed £5559.00, general deficit 581.99).

Our sales keep up but so do our costs, which rise dramatically – but we're not doing too badly, considering the production of **The Art of Anarchy** which when paid for will be yielding funds for prisoners via the Black Cross, and the purchase of our own typesetting machine (a computer has also been donated). Vernons (the pools firm) obliged a comrade with a rich win, tithed to us; and another comrade came up with two big sums of £1,000 and £500, not to mention many other really good donations which have kept us going. Our readers are also helping prisoners directly and engaged in a lot besides; all in all the deficit doesn't frighten us too much, we don't pass on the interest charges to the Flag funds. But we can always do with more natch.

* DONATIONS:

*Scotland* WS £4; MM *Manchester* MB £2; RB £8; CPG £3; PH £6; *Holland* RS £3.40; K £3 *Huddersfield* SB £18; *Preston* CL £2; *Toronto* DB £10; *Bradford* 1-in12 £10; *Leicester* PM £8; *London* JT £10; Paul £1; £5; £1; JW £10; JP £20; JG £30; *Spain XP* £21.53; Benefit £100; *Liverpool* Vernons £1,000; *Finland* KH £30; *France* M. £50; *Herts* CB £500, £125; *Norwich* JT £15; *Surrey* AJ £1, LD £8; *Exeter* TM £12; *Cambridge* GP £2; *Belfast* JB £1; *USA* GM £20; *London* AM £750; JM & P £225; £30; H £20; S. £6.50; R. £2; B. £2; JR £1; Mystery donation £150.00

TOTAL: £2223.43

### ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

**For Mutual Aid Prisoners/Veterans fund:** *Aberdeen* As £5, Chris £3; *Bath* RE £5; *Surrey* AJ £2, £2; *Bolton* Anarchist Day £80; *Detroit* per Fifth Estate £32.41, $50; *Devon* PLH £1. **Total £130.41**

**For Chile political prisoners etc.** *Devon* £2; *S. Walden* £5; *Surrey* AJ £2; *Brixton* 121 Nov 11th Social £54; NJ £2.

**Total £65**

**Sorry we had to give up the idea of a quarterly supplements due to expense. We have decided to return to publishing a supplement, dealing with particular subjects which will form one pamphlet and be saleable thereafter.**

**We are commencing with what may be regarded by some of our friends as a controversial issue, on the position of the Anarchist movement, an analysis of its strength and weakness at the present time, and pointing to a way ahead casting off the dross that surrounds us. In this regard George Woodcock's 'Anarchism' (published by Penguin) and Freedom's 'centennial' issue (published by Freedom Press) will be reviewed at length, not only for the many grossly outrageous and offensive libels but for the trend which is clearly displayed.**

**The next supplement – after a few more regular issues – will probably be 'Anarchism and Religion' – a new look at a subject rarely touched upon. We will also be issuing 'Anarchism and the Police' later in 1987.**

*The next issue of BLACK FLAG will appear after the holiday break.*



# INTERNATIONAL

## Greece - Disarm Cops Everywhere !

**The 17th of November is an important date in Greek history. Every year on that date a march is held to the American embassy in Athens as a commemoration to the 1973 popular revolt against the military junta.**

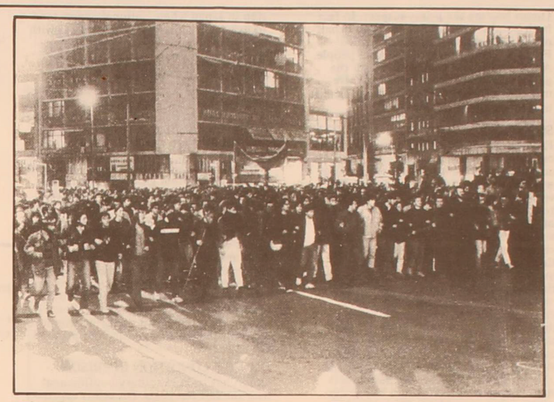
The whole celebration is manipulated by the political parties of the left which by presenting a distorted image of the events have turned the original Polytech School insurrection into a remote caricature of itself. Greek anarchists during the thirteen commemorations of the revolt have tried to reveal the profoundly revolutionary anti-capitalist aspect of the 1973 uprising behind the veils of party obscurantism. Their attempt in many such celebrations has resulted in violent confrontation with the political parties and the police. In the 1980 demonstration two comrades, Lakovas Kouwis and Stamatina Kanelopoulou were assassinated by the MAT (special anti-riot police forces). Last November the 15-year old anarchist Mihalis Kaltezas was shot to death by a cop after an attack on a police van.

On 15th November 1986 flowers were placed at the spot where Mihalis was murdered by his family and many comrades. A group of comrades intervened while the Prime Minister A. Papandreou was placing flowers at the Polytech School in commemoration of the 1973 insurrections, shouting slogans like: *Cops, Pigs, assassins!* etc. Late at night some cops along with members of the fascist-oriented National Political Union tried to remove the flowers placed in Mihalis' memory; a comrade who attacked them was arrested and taken to the police station (taking the flowers with him) to be released 2 hours later.

On the following day (Sunday 16th) a requiem was held by Mihalis' family at the Zografou cemetary where his tomb is. Some 500 anarchists attended the ceremony, holding black and red flags and a banner saying: *Polytechnic School 1973-1980-1985, the State assassinates. The assassins are the same – the class enemies are the same.* They shouted slogans such as *Mihalis is alive! The blood is flowing, demanding revenge! Death to Melistas (the killer cop)* etc. and sang a revolutionary song in Mihalis' commemoration. After the ceremony they marched through the streets of Zographou calling for revenge under rather feeble police surveillance.

**17/11/'86 ANARCHISTS MARCH**

On monday the 17th (the day of the annual march) the anarchists called for a demo at the spot where Mihalis was shot. 2,000 anarchist comrades marched behind the official demo. The police surveillance measures were unbelievable. Some 18,000 cops (!) surrounded the demo and 'protected' key-buildings such as universities, banks etc. from anarchist 'attack' *.



Scene from last year's riot in Athens.

As soon as the anarchists started to march a plainclothes cop was spotted inside the demo by group of comrades, in his attempt to escape he stumbled down and his gun fell out. As our perceptive readers can imagine he didn't exactly have what one calls 'a good time', maybe that's why he left to go to hospital. His gun was left to the anarchists. Later in the demo a cleverly packed spray-can was thrown into the yard of the Greek Parliament causing a great deal of panic, being mistaken for a bomb. (On the following day some newspapers had *Bomb in the Parliament* titles on their front page as they didn't have time to correct them.) Later on, a molotov-bomb was thrown by the anarchists against the Japanese consulate, in protest against the detention of Katsuhisa Omori who is awaiting the death penalty.

Three more cops in plain clothes were *beaten up* and *disarmed* by a number of comrades. The last cop, crying, gave the gun up himself in order to escape a beating up; poor guy, he didn't. All three were then transferred to hospital. The cops in the streets by that time had been scared to death and only through great effort did the police officials manage to dissuade them from using their weapons, which would cause a massacre. Only after the end of the march, when anarchists had dissolved into smaller groups, did the MAT attack, blockading Exarchia Square at the same time in fear of any anarchists assemblying there. However, no arrests were made and no police guns were found. Late at night the Minister of Public Order, Drosoyianis, declared that 'this was the end of the government's tolerance (!) towards the anarchists' and that the police weapons would be found.

On the same day in Hania (Crete) some 200 Anarchist comrades joined the commemorative march after having occupied for a day the entrance of the American-NATO airbase of Souda, in protest against the militarisation of people's lives.

In Patra 100 comrades marched to the Patra Police HQ where they threw back a flowercrown in commemoration of the 1973 dead, deposed by 'Democratic Policemen'.

In Kavala, as well, 50 Anarchists marched through the central streets, shouting *Cops, Pigs, assassins* etc.

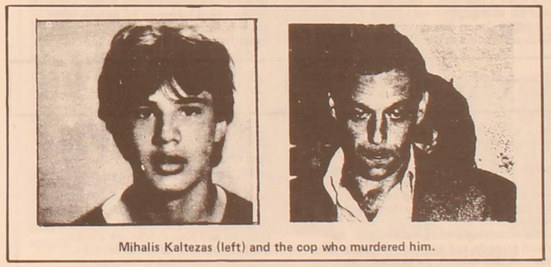
In all Greek cities tracts were distributed to demand the immediate and unconditional release of two comrades (Kostas Petrou and Pascalis Lialiaris) who are still imprisoned for their alleged participation in the bombing of a police car on June 7th, during the occupation of the Salonica university campus in protest against the police repression in Athens after the anti-nuclear riots.

Recent information from Greece says that the police set up investigations based on photographs, in order to find the persons who beat up and disarmed the cops. The 27 year old Greek cycling champion, Vangelis Papadakis (he was convicted last year for breaking traffic lights during riots at a State-sponsored rock festival between young people and cops who tried to stop free entry), was brought to Police HQs for interrogation concerning his alleged participation in the incident. The police claim that he was recognised by a photograph, while three more persons are wanted.

On Sunday November 23rd, the 25 year old worker Sotiris Deliyianis was arrested in possession of one police gun in the Athens airport. He claims that he was waiting for some friends there. He claims he didn't have anything to do with the beating-up of the cops although he took one of the guns. The police are trying to associate him with 'terrorist' groups, in their overall attempt to supress the anarchists in Greece.

* In this number we do not include the groups of 'indignant citizens (socialist party members and fascist) organised by the state, as the newspapers admitted, for the maintenance of 'public peace'.

*Note: Kostas Petrou and Pascalis Lialiaris were eventually released two weeks ago on bail of 100.000 drachmas each (£500) and on the condition that they appear to the police on the 1st and 16th dates of every month.*



Mihalis Kaltezas (left) and the cop who murdered him.

## News in Brief

### CANADA – KILLER COPS ON THE LOOSE

**When Raymond Malefant became the new owner of the Manoir Richelieu, a luxury resort hotel in Point-au-Pic Quebec, his first move was to get rid of the union. Only a fraction of the 250 workers were re-hired, and the rest were replaced with non-union personnel. Former workers proceeded to set up a picket line. On Oct. 25th, about 100 strikers and supporters were present when scuffles broke out with the police, the situation grew heated and Gaston Harvey, whose wife had been working at the Manoir Richelieu, was taken into custody. Within an hour he was dead.**

Immediately, a cover-up operation was set in motion. An autopsy took place in a hospital in La Malbaie and a police spokesperson affirmed that 'the results of the autopsy show that Mr. Harvey was not beaten'. According to the police, Harvey was drunk, lost consciousness and choked on his own vomit. The version of Gerald Larose, president of the CSN, the union to which the former Manoir Richelieu workers are affiliated, paints a very different picture: 'Even though witnesses have testified to the violent manner in which the police intervened, and their accounts are backed up by eloquent photographs of the events which took place, the Quebec police force has done everything in its power to disguise events, lead public opinion astray and to discredit the victim.'

On November 5, the results of a second autopsy demanded by Gaston Harvey's family became available (they were not even consulted about the first one). Police brutality was clearly evident: 'the blow led to concussion, the concussion led to vomiting', concluded Dr. Pierre Fournier, and he 'would not have died had he not suffered the blow to the head'. Dr. Fournier dismissed the possibility of his having fallen down, stating that 'A person who falls hits him or herself on the side, front or back of the head, not on top of it'.

In spite of the facts of the matter, it is unlikely that the cops responsible for Harvey's death or the cover-up will be disciplined.

Between 1970 and 1981, forty-one people were killed by the police in Quebec.

Source: A.L.

### USA – ANARCHY IN THE POST

*Anarchy Magazine* voice of the Columbian Anarchist League, won a quiet victory against US government policies in June after attempts were made to ban the publication from being distributed through the US postal system.

Complaints from residents who found *Anarchy* in their mail boxes prompted the Columbia Post Office to send the publication to the Postal Inspection Service in nearby Kansas City. The agency investigates 'crimes against the public where the postal service is somehow involved.'

The magazine was scrutinised against Title 18 of the US Postal Code Section 1461 – which forbids the mailing of 'obsecene and crime-inciting materils – but was found to break no rules.

*Anarchy* will therefore continue to be sent to residents in Columbia and the surrounding areas free of charge *through the mail.*

*Columbia Anarchist League*
*POB 380, Columbia MO 65205 USA*

### PHILIPPINES'S BRACED FOR MORE REPRESSION

The hideous torture (his eyes were gouged out) and murder of leftist leader, Rolando Olialia, has highlighted the sham of the so-called democracy of the Aquino Govt. People are fearful awaiting the unleashing of terror that has persisted since Marcos's demise yet not reached the proportions assumed prior to the 'ponular revolution'.

Aquino, a right-of-centre entrepreneur is clearly a puppet of her military protectors and can do little to prevent further State terrorism. The KMU (the only leftist union bloc, of which the late Olialia was its leader) is reportedly organising a strike and pulled out of the arbitration body set up by the government. Many leftists have gone underground.

The strategy of the miltary is classic enough: to create destabilisation so that martial law can be re-imposed. The coup will then be an institutional one.

The murder and strike in response has threatened to break up the 60 day cease-fire between the National Democratic Front guerrillas and the Military. Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, a rumoured candidate for military junta leadership resigned in protest at the cease-fire.

### ITALY – ANARCHIST MONUMENT PROVOKES PROTEST

The intention to erect a monument to King Umberto I's assassin in the Italian town of Carrara has enraged local monarchists.

On 29th July – the 86th Anniversary of the King's assassination by Anarchist Gaetano Bresci – Monarchists demonstrated in the square where the monument is to be situated.

Local Anarchists got permission to go ahead with the monument from the local town council on 25th July and have agreed to cover all costs.

*Source: D.L.*

# ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

## Time Runs Out For Omori

**Our comrade Katsuhisa Omori is still on death-row in Japan having been sentenced to death in March 1983 for a crime he never committed. Arrested over ten years ago and accused by police of bombing a Government office on Hokkaido Island (Japan) in March 1976, Omori has consistently protested his innocence.**

Sadly while Nelson Mandela has become become something of a 'cause celebre' amongst the left, cases like that of Omori go almost entirely unnoticed. Essentially there is no difference between Omori's case and Mandelas. Both are being locked up and silenced because their ideas.




*Black Flag* was recently visited by a member of Omori's Support Group from Tokyo. Much of the information contained in this article has been taken from our conversations with him.

Omori's political career was short-lived. While he was studying to become a teacher (a career he he eventually rejected to become a building labourer) of mathematics, Omori got involved in the fight for equal rights for Koreans live in Japan. Another issue close to his heart was the plight of the Ainu. Like Koreans, the Ainu are looked down upon by many Japanese as 'inferior'. Hokkaido Island, where the Ainu live, was invaded by Japan in 1868 and brutally colonised. Omori felt it necessary to decolonise Hokkaido by removing all Japanese influence from the island. When two bombs ripped apart a police station and a government office in the capital of Hokkaido in July 1975 and March 1976, Omori became the prime suspect. In fact both bombs were later claimed on behalf of the 'East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front' in solidarity with the Ainu people. Although Omori sympathised with the actions he categorically denies involvement. A complete lack of evidence against him backs up his statement.

**SO WHY WAS OMORI FOUND GUILTY?**

From the beginning, the pressure has been on Omori to prove his innocence. This disadvantage was compounded when Omori was tried without a jury and in front of a very unsympathetic judge. The original trial and subsequent appeal took the form of Court hearings one day per month. As a result the original trial took six years to complete while the appeal is now in its third year. If that appeal fails to find him innocent his case goes onto its third and final stage – the Supreme Court in Tokyo.

Hard evidence against Omori doesn't exist. Instead, authorities have based their case on one witness, Mr Fujii, who claims he saw Omori and another man outside the Government office on the morning of the bombing. Yet original photo-fit pictures of the suspects made by police directly from Fujii's description do not resemble Omori. Only a second set of photo-fit pictures faked by police after Omori was arrested, show any resemblance.

The second main piece of evidence against Omori involves three hand-written symbols that appeared on the communique issued after the bombing. Authorities claim that these symbols match similar designs written on some of Omori's books. However, when impartial witnesses studied both sets of symbols they failed to agree on whether or not Omori could have done them. Nevertheless, Judge Mitsunori Shojima had no such doubts and sentenced Omori to death, saying he had committed an 'anti-social act' and should therefore be executed.

To his credit, Omori never made a confession of guilt despite police torture (stomach and hair grabbed, fingers bent back with a pen), following his arrest. A national newspaper even went so far as to suggest Omori was innocent before the death-sentence was passed – an unusual step in Japan where national papers tend to just report the facts of such cases with no comment.

**WHO ARE THE 'EAST ASIAN ANTI-JAPAN ARMED FRONT?**

The EAA-JAF was an anti-imperialist armed group active in Japan in the early '70s. After bombing a Mitsubishi (heavy industry) Company office in Tokyo in 1974, nine people were arrested by police and the group dissolved. Two of the nine who were arrested, like Omori, await execution today. Three other group members have received long prison sentences for their part in the bombing. All five receive from the 'Tokyo 5' Support Group solidarity. As a result of the similar circumstances under which Omori and the 'Tokyo 5' were arrested, both support groups sometimes co-operate and co-ordinate activities. Although both the Hokkaido police station and Government office bombs were also claimed by the AAA-JAF – it was in fact a new group, with no formal connection with the original group, who planned the attacks.

**OMORI'S CONDITION IN PRISON**

Omori has been in solitary confinement over the last ten years. His cell is approx-




imately ten feet long and wide. A quarter of the cell is taken up by a flush toilet. He gets three meals per day (rice, soup, meat/fish) and has permission to buy extra bread or fruit if he can afford to do so. Cigarettes, alcohol, television and the use of a telephone are all forbidden. A radio is played six hours per day although the station is chosen by prison authorities. Exercise, weather permitting, lasts thirty minutes and is taken alone. One shower every three days is permitted in Summer. Letters in foreign languages are not allowed. One visit, lasting a maximum of fifteen minutes is accepted per day.

Support for Omori in Japan is organised through Support Groups. The main support groups are presently in Tokyo and Sapporo (Hokkaido). Support also exists in Kyoto, Osaka and elsewhere. The Tokyo support group publishes a monthly bulletin to help promote the 'Free Omori' campaign. Lawyers bills are paid for by Omori's family.

During a recent international day of action commemorating Omori's tenth year in prison, demos were held in USA, Canada, Britain, Australia and Japan. In Geneva, Swizerland the Japanese consulate was evacuated for a day after a bomb threat was received. Further investigation allowed police to locate a suspicious suitcase in which a piece of paper with the words: 'Free Omori' written on was found.

Further activity is planned in March 1987 to commemorate the 4th Anniversary of the death-sentence judgement. . . watch this space.

Financial aid (in the form of Inter. Money Orders) can be sent directly to:

*Omori Support Group, Chitose P.O. Box No. 35, Segata-Kua, Tokyo, Japan.*

FREE OMORI NOW!

*NB. A video about the Omori case is being produced and should be ready early next year (1987). Anyone interested in contributing to our costs or in showing the video should contact us c/o ABC (Anarchist Black Cross), BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX England.*

## Terry Dean B77879

As reported in Black Flag, Terry Dean is still in Brixton Prison. F Wing was rebuilt two years ago and is a model of how prisons could become in future. It breaks most rules of basic human rights. Basically a psychological torture wing, inmates are out of their single cells (8' long by 6' wide by 8' high) for periods of 5 minutes to fifteen, in total half an hour per 24 hours.

Terry has remained firm in his stand for what he believes in. For fourteen months he has been sitting in a cell with dirty blankets, a stinking piss pot, often without even a table to eat at. He has complained of his letters being stopped and recently his dignity is being stripped by unaware unfeeling inmates and the cold knock-back of the screws.

He has asked for a change of solicitor for his case, and has written to trade unions to ask for financial aid which he needs if he is to fight the unjust charges held over him by the filth. But he needs visits, as he cannot be sure his letters are coming through.

He has recovered from his 46 day hunger strike, and was so thin he joked about slipping through the bars, but food is appalling there and exercise is often cancelled, so he's not gained much weight.

He is writing a book based upon the armed struggle and anyone with information on this subject, particularly Nicaragua, should send it on. Posters, papers, pictures, books on the workers struggle too are welcome. Tobacco and soft drinks will raise his spirits before he comes to trial for something he never did.

Although F. Wing is Psychiatric, Terry is not being given drugs, but was confined to punishment 'strip' cell for 4 days because of a scuffle with a Cat A prisoner directly opposite, and was seen by the Governor recently over another fight.

During the summer, Terry's spirits were high and he had much hope for the future, and release, but since less people have visted, his letters may have been stopped, his hopes are dwindling. Visits are Mon-Sat for three people for fifteen minutes. Snacks and soft drinks tobacco and paperbacks are allowed. Visit if you can, he needs support.

**Morf**

**APOLOGY**

Terry Dean has not been to Court as we reported in our last issue. His trial date is not until March 23rd 1987. We apologise to readers who like us were taken in by a liar. This person is now well known as a liar and we will in future delay printing last minute information unless it can be confirmed.

*Terry Dean B77879*
*HM Prison Brixton,*
*Jebb Avenue SW2*

## Miners in Jail

Gary Blackmore: Murton – Two years youth custody from December 1985.

Michael Stephenson: Wearmouth – Three years sentence from June 1986.*RF8756 HM Prison Acklington, Morpeth, Northumbria.*

John Matterson: Murton – Two years three months youth custody from December 1985.

Terry French: Betteshanger – Four years from January 1985. *B73383 Northeye Prison, Barnhorn Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, E. Sussex, TN39 4QW.*

Dean Hancock: Oakdale – Eight year sentence. *Gartree Prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.*

Russell Shankland: Taff Merthyr – Eight year sentence. *Gartree Prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.*

**JAILED PRINTER**

Stephen Savage: SOGAT casuals' strike committee – Three months from October 1986. *Sheerness Jail.*

## Eric Hebert and Bernard Jaudon

**FRENCH ANTI-MILITARISTS**

*On February 5th 1986, I was called up and I had joined the army forces based in Douai, as a conscript. I did not go there because I am an anarchist and a pacifist. I fight against conscription because it is the institution that stands for the submission and the destruction of men.*

*I am convinced that peace will only be made possible when all the armies throughout the world and all death machinery are abolished and when all the justifications for war are no longer available.*

*Authority, the basis of the present social order, must be destroyed. The building up of a libertarian society will put an end to war and to the other diseases of today's society.*

*I know that insubordination is not an easy thing to do. I may be sentenced to a two year imprisonment but I do believe it means hope for a new world where nobody will have to obey.*

*Eric Hebert*

At the moment, french justice hasn't examined Eric's case but it's a matter of days or months. That's why we are asking you to support him when he needs it, in order to stop the prosecution against him and also to ask for his release once he is arrested.

***Letters of support can be sent via his support group c/o:***

*Comite de soutien a Eric Hebert*
*B.P. 58, 76160 Darnetal – France*

Bernard Jaudon has refused to do the military service, and the civil service. He has been in jail now for more than two months. You can write to him, to support him at the following address:

*Bernard Jaudon, No 3955,*
*maison d'arret, BP 88,*
*13 rue d' Autun, 71100 Chalon-France*

You can write to his support group at:

*Comite de Soutien a' B. Jaudon,*
*c/o CEP, 44 rue Saint Georges,*
*BP 5006 Saint Jean, 69245*
*Lyon Cedex 01 – France*

Write to the Law court of Dijon to protest:

*Cour d' appel de Dijon,*
*(M. le President de la cour d'appel)*
*Palais de Justice, 21000 Dijon - France*

Write to the Minister of Justice to protest:

*M. le Ministre de la Justice,*
*13 place Vendome, 75042, Paris-France*



**DEATHS IN ZAMBIAN FOOD RIOTS**

At least 12 people died in days o days of rioting in a Zambian copper mining town after 100% increase in basic food prices.

Paramilitary police fired teargas and baton-charged demonstrators who looted food, clothing and TV sets from shops and offices in Kitwe.



# AUSTRALIA

## NURSES STRIKE ESCALATES

Currently over 14,000 nurses are out on strike in the State of Victoria. The dispute is over wages. As in all industrialised nations the poor pay of nurses in Victoria (and the rest of Australia) is unacceptably low.

The current dispute stems from the implementation, by Health Department and Hospital officials, of a new award won by nurses last year. Instead of the promised, and long overdue, pay rises many nurses lost allowances for experience and certificates, and most nurses were classified on the most basic level – even though they work in areas such as maternity wards.

The Victorian Hospitals Association has called for a volunteer strike-breaking force, and this resulted in more walk-outs So far around 60% of hospitals are affected. The nurses union, The Royal Australian Nurses Federation, wants to negotiate but the Government has refused and has insisted on taking the dispute to arbitration. A member of the Industrial Relations Commission of Victoria has publicly said that the practice of negotiation is now outside the law – not just for nurses but for all organised labour. The dispute is therefore a test case for the ruling Labour Party's stand on state intervention.

One of the characteristics of the strike is the public support for the nurses. When the newspaper *The Age* published an anti-strike editorial it had its letters and phone-in access columns deluged by outraged replies for two days. People have been observed stopping on the footpath to clap marching nurses and hospital volunteers trotted out for the media have almost all come out supporting the nurses.

As a consequence the media have been doing their bit to misinform and smear. When the award was first announced headlines suggested nurses would get $200 per week pay rises. This later proved to only apply to a handful of top level nurses. The papers continue to give prominence to criticism of the strikers by selected hospital managers, doctors and politicians.

Threats of solidarity actions by workers in other industries have helped to increase pressure on the employers and state authorities alike. It now seems more likely that a deal close to that which the Nurses are demanding may be achieved.

Threats of solidarity action begun with an anouncement from power workers in Victoria's Latrobe Valley (they provide the bulk of electricity for the city of Melbourne and the rest of the Victorian region), indicating that concerted industrial action would be taken within a matter of days should the dispute not begin to progress. Members of the Building Workers Industrial Union and the Federated Engine Drivers and Firemans Association also announced industrial solidarity action plans. The dispute may well be settled to avoid escalation.

The wider significance of the strike and of the solidarity being shown is that the statutory arbitration practices have been challenged. The practices were originally set up by Labour Party politicians several decades back and have dogged the independence of unions since. For years many unions have gone along with the lie that the only way they could be protected from injustice is through arbitration. To assist this lie the so-called New Right (free-marketeer Thatcherites) are calling for a dismantling of the arbitration system in order to smash unionism at a point in time when the rank and file appear to have little control over what goes on. The Labor Party, together with the ACTU* are meanwhile putting out statements about the need to change 'restrictive practices' and adopt a 'new realism' to enable the economy to fight against changing market conditions. All familiar bullshit.

Sooner or later the arbitration mystique has got to be broken. And any change in this direction can only come from the rank and file asserting union independence and the right to determine their control over how labour is organised. It means that the whole philosophy and practice of state interventionism and, even more so, the cosy relationship between the trade union leaderships and the social democratic parliamentarians must be challenged. The Nurses strike is a step in the right direction – even if it is as much a leadership led dispute as a rank and file one. That it has been condemned and hampered by the Australian Council of Trade Unions indicates just how much even a relatively minor rebellion can pose a threat to the top-down controlled procedure and State intervention.

**POLICE ATTACK NURSES' PICKETS**

Patients Stike Support Groups, formed in support of striking nurses have begun a campaign of action adopting the flying picket tactic. The Strike Support Groups have been initiated by members of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation. At the same time police have begun offensive actions against picket lines as the strike escalates.

PSSG's have helped out on several picket lines, with full approval from the rank and file strikers as well as strike organisers from the union. PSSG's members were invited by Royal Australian Nurses Federation strike organisers to attend a RANF benefit rally to publicise the action. Many nurses commented that they thought the idea of support groups was really imaginative, especially at a point in the dispute where new tactics needed to be adopted and when pressure on the authorities was being increased through a blockade of essential linen supplies.

The crisis over linen supplies resulted in several incidents occurring at picket lines involving police violence. On Nov. 28 and 29, for example, two hospitals at the centre of the linen supplies – the Western General and the Royal Melbourne – witnessed scenes of nurses being dragged away by their hair by cops to allow trucks through. Another Melbourne hospital – the Austin – became another focal point, with linen trucks making surprise visits and bus-loads of cops in support. So far many of the nurses have taken a soft attitude towards the police (with some even playing cricket with nurses on the picket line) and have backed away from militant actions. But as the dispute escalates, and with the threat of solidarity strike action from BWIU building workers (mainly ex-BLF's – the outlawed militant building workers union) and power workers, the probability of greater police intervention will certainly force the issue more into the open.

Picket lines need greater support and the ASF initiative has already prompted press attention who are perplexed by the concept of community support in an industrial dispute. It is hoped that more support groups will be set up and that crucial solidarity will be shown – not only from other unions but from the 'public' (we're all part of the health process) to increase pressure and force through a victory.

In the latest development the ACTU has now intervened in the dispute in an attempt to save face for the Labour government, putting it to the State Industrial Commission that they consider another new award for the nurses – allowing for new negotiations while maintaining the Labor government 'principle' of not negotiating with any strikers!

Already a leading Department of Health advisor has described the direct action taken and the rejection by nurses of the state arbitration procedure as 'industrial anarchy'. Too true!

**Source: Anarchist Syndicated News**

*ACTU – Australian Council of Trade Unions, equivalent to English TUC.

**FILM REVIEW:**

Rocking the Foundations (Director: Pat Fiske, Australia, 1985).

This excellent and inspiring film portrays the struggle of the rank and file members of the Australian Builders Labourer's Federation to throw out their corrupt gangster officials and improve their economic and social conditions. After WWII much investment (national and multi-national) went into 'property development' pulling buildings down that could have been renovated, kicking low-income people out of the inner city and building high rise office block towers and luxury housing for the rich.

The BLF improved pay and conditions (won accident pay and health insurance) at the initiative of the rank and file by decentalising into job site delegates and autonomy for strike action, flying picket tactics to confront scabs and demolish their work and other tactics such as work-ins when bosses tried to lock out the militants. In the late sixties, and early seventies the BLF members were kept well informed by producing all literature in several languages: Spanish, Greek, Portuguese etc. and at site meetings have translators puttting all decisions before the rank and file clearly.

The BLF was involved in the liberation struggle of Aboriginals who fought and won (with BLF help) back their homes and shops from developers which became the first inner city land rights victory; the residents of other areas who got the BLF to put a 'Green Ban' on destroying historic buildings, native bushland, low income homes; ban on building a new maximum security jail, the organising of women labourers into the BLF as real equals of the men. All these and much more is explored through historic video and film footage and interviews with the organisers, bosses and BLs themselves today.

Pat Fiske, a builders labourer like so many others, was locked out of the industry when the union was deregistered by the NSW state and broken up by the twin forces of the pro-Moscow Communist Party-run Building Workers Industrial Union and the pro-Peking Communist Party- run national BLF from Melbourne, Victoria. The Secretary of the latter, Norm Gallagher has ironically now himself been locked out and has been sent to jail after losing the battle for central control with the pro-Moscow Communist Party-run BWIU.

The political bureaucrats were threatened by the NSW BLF rule of maximum six years as a paid official (on the same pay and conditions as the members); no pay when they were on strike , and the profiteering developers were being forced to give a little of their wealth back and treat residents carefully. Thus the police, bosses, union CP bureaucrats, thugs and judges attacked and criminalised the militant builders labourers. Of course, BLs still take action today and some Green Bans continue, as do the struggles for Aboriginal land rights, women's liberation, housing for low income people through squatting etc. It is these direct action methods and liberation organising (which meant occupation of bosses and governmental offices until demands were met for the BLs) which set a good example for other to use in their own self-managed battles, that is the real victory of the Builders Labourers Federation.

*NOTE: We are hoping to obtain a copy of this film in the near future and would like DAM groups to co-operate by showing the film in their areas. More information from 121 Film Society, 121 Railton Road, London SE24.*




**Pickets (former patients) supporting the nurses strike outside the Epworth Hospital**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**NATIONAL ACTION GET TV AIRTIME**

National Action, the Australian version of the British National Front chalked up a minor victory when it achieved seven minutes of airtime on breakfast TV. One of their spokesmen (sic) was interviewed about a so-called campaign they are organising against advertising agencies and advertisers who employ Asians to advertise products.

The basis of the campaign is to call for a 'mass boycott' of products associated with these advertisements. Two advertising agencies have already been sent letters from National Action ordering them to cease the employment of Asians otherwise the campaign will be stepped up. The advertising agencies have not taken the threats seriously. But the NA hinted at plans to use 'direct action' should the advertising agencies ignore their warnings. . .

The gutsy direct approach, using tactics generally associated of the left, may appeal to a minority of Australian nationalists, but overall can only be seen as a publicity stunt that the media pandered to, and which will hardly lead to a boycott of even slight significance, but could be an indication of the 'high profile' approach that National Action will want to adopt in the future. If that begins to take on the use of violence, as practised by their UK counterparts, then the setting up of an Australian based Anti-Fascist Action might well be necessary to put these racists in their place.

**SCAB UNION RECOGNISED**

In Queensland, a scab union, the Qld Power Workers Association (QPWA) has been recognised as a trade union by the Supreme Court. It is an important boost towards full recognition. The QPWA was set up in the wake of the 1985 Power Workers dispute to counteract the ETU (Electrical Trade Union), which at that point in time solely represented the interests of power workers throughout Australia.

The move mirrors events after the miners strike in Britain, demonstrating that the legitimation of scabbing is a growing phenomenon that has to be dealt with – it will not go away by ignoring it. During the 1985 dispute in Qld. scabs were physically attacked, as were their homes. Sabotage was also used extensively. The dispute was finally lost because of capitulation by the ETU leadership – not because of lack of solidarity, that came from around the State and interstate as well as workers in other industries. The totalitarian Qld. state Government introduced a system of fines for any individual workers who undertake go-slows or other 'on the job' actions.

**Source: Our Australian Correspondent**

# COMMENT

## NOMENKLATURA

*We revolutionary anarchists are the enemies of all forms of State and State organisations. We think that all State rule, all governments being by their very nature placed outside the mass of the people, must necessarily seek to subject it to customs and purposes entirely foreign to it.*

*We therefore declare ourselves to be foes of all State organisations as such, and believe that the people can only be free and happy, when, organised from below by means of its own autonomous and completely free associations, without the supervision of any guardians, it will create its own life.*

*We believe power corrupts those who wield it as much as those who are forced to obey it. Under its corrosive influence some become greedy and ambitious tyrants, exploiting society in their own interest, or in that of their class, while others are turned into abject slaves. All those who put science before life defend the idea of the State as being the only possible salvation of society – quite logically since from their false premises that thought comes before life, that only abstract theory can form the starting point of social practice, they draw the inevitable conclusion that since such theoretical knowledge is at present possessed by very few, these few must be put in possession of social life, not only to inspire, but to direct all popular movements, and that no sooner is the revolution over than a new social organisation must at once be set up; not a free association of popular bodies working in accordance with the needs and instincts of the people, but a centralised dictatorial power, concentrated in the hands of this academic minority, as if they really expressed the popular will.*

*The difference between such revolutionary dictatorship and the modern State is only one of external trappings. In substance both are a tyranny of the minority over a majority in the name of the people, in the name of the stupidity of the many and the superior wisdom of the few; and so they are equally reactionary, devising to secure political and economic privilege to the ruling minority and the enslavement of the masses, to destroy the present order only to erect their own rigid dictatorship on its ruins.*

Organisation From Below: **M. Bakunin.**

*Nomenklatura* by Michael Voslensky (ISBN 0370-30471-3) published by Bodley Head in 1984.

This book will not be the last written by those disillusioned with 'Socialism' in State power. Forerunners in recent times are Milovan Djilas — *The New Class* (about Yugoslavia), Ota Sik (about Czechoslavakia), Rudolf Bahro (about East Germany), Jacek Kuron (about Poland.) From the outside the celebrated novels of G. Orwell - *Animal Farm, 1984* have been widely read, recorded and even filmed. They have all been widely read inside the Soviet Bloc too. The writings of A. Solzhenitsen - *Gulag Archipelago, A Day In The Life Of Ivan Devenosvitch*, despite his reactionary politics have also been chipping away at the Iron Curtain. Leon Trotsky and other reactionaries once in exile also criticised their rival Stalin for his 'dictatorship over the proletariat'.

*The Guardian* newspaper recently published a November 1985 document issued from within the 'Partyocracy' which calls for 'reform'. It is in this light that Voslensky's books should be read. As a more recent socialist socialite on the scene of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union he has a lot of good inside detail on the 'Nomenklatura' class in power, their rise and current style of priveleges and strategies.

Beginning with Bakunin's adversaries Marx and Engels, their translators Plekhanov, Axelrod & crew on through Lenin and the *Professional Revolutionaries* who seized power and strangled the social revolution in Russia. The new 'Red' aristocracy, the new ruling class is self-perpetuating, those in high positions are only relieved of their power by higher authorities or by death (with the KGB police factions bribed off anyone can be easily removed it seems, eg despite unusually strict safety codes several higher-ups got killed in arranged road accidents over the past few years thus clearing the way on up for the Gorbochov clique). They acquire wealth from power, whereas in the West the rich acquire power from wealth. But like all ruling classes or groups they seek to monopolise, rub out the opposition and expand their empire.

The Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe like the British CalderHall/Windscale/Sellafield prolonged disaster are simply 'unavoidable' if unfortunate, risks but we are told there is no alternative power supply. Channel 4 in July showed Soviet mining of uranium using convicts in a follow-up programme to Chernobyl. It was a truly frightening glimpse at every-day life for 'enemies of the State'. None of those forced to mine survive their hard labour. Like the dissidents, Gypsies, Jews and many others in the Nazi period only their own resistance or partisans liberate them as no one else is going to help.

*@ Comrade.*

## RAFAEL BARRET

### The Unknown Anarchist.

**Rafael Barret was born in Santander (a Spanish province) in 1876. He was registered as a British citizen because his dad was Scottish whereas his mum was Spanish. His priviledged background enabled him to get a good education.**

He spent his youth amongst the aristocracy of Spain's high society. Barret was later to abandon this frivolous life after financial disaster befell him and after he fell out with some of Spain's aristocrats. He left Spain and travelled to South America. 'The Land of Hope' for many Spanish and Italian immigrants at that time. His personality underwent a complete transformation on reaching South America. He gained some common sense and became aware of what social injustice meant and how to fight it.

He settled in Buenos Aires (capital city of Argentina) in 1903 and got a job as a journalist. He also co-founded the 'Mathematics Union of Argentina' with a Spanish friend. Barret knew mathematics inside out and he was a competent engineer. He once corresponded with Henri Poincare, the famous French mathematician, informing him of a new mathematical formula he'd discovered. Barret soon realised that the 'rich America the immigrants hoped for didn't exist. In Buenos Aires he saw State repression and how a few lead priviledged lives whilst the immigrants were poor. He described much of what he saw in *El Terror Argentino*. Many of the arguments Barret raised in this book are still as relevant today. Take for example his description of the tortures meted out to those who refused obligatory military service.

In 1904 he was sent to Paraguay by the newspaper he was working for to cover the story of the rebellion that had



Rafael Barret

(1876-1910)

broken out north of Argentina's border. He was only to return to Argentina very briefly after this before his death.

In Paraguay he got a clerical job working for a railway company but soon lost the job when he complained about the terrible conditions railway workers were forced to put up with. From then onwards he had to rely solely on his work as a journalist to get by.

In 1906 Barret got married to Francisca Maiz Lopez ('Panchita'). Francisca was related to Marshal Lopez, an ex-Preisdent of Paraguay who tried to industrialise Paraguay in the 19th Century without the aid of foreign investment (with some benefit to Paraguay's population). Lopez' plan was cut short when Paraguay lost the Triple Alliance War (1865-1878) against Argentina, Brasil & Uruguay. Britain, fearing that Paraguay if allowed to industrialise itself, could lead to a South America independent from Britain, threw its weight behind the victors.

Barret became an Anarchist in Paraguay and for the first time got directly involved in workers' struggles. He attended conferences, meetings, strikes (organised by the **Regional Workers Federation of Paraguay** the F.O.R.P.) and wrote many articles denouncing the cruel exploitation of workers. Jose Bertotto, a young Argentine, played an important role in Barret's conversion to Anarchism. Bertotto settled in Paraguay in 1908 He already knew Barret and together they got involved in social struggles taking place in Asuncion (capital city of Paraguay). When Barret wrote an article denouncing the savage exploitation of workers who earned a living picking a tea-like herb (called Yerba mate) the company involved (run on British capital) tried to bribe him into stopping the denunciations. When Barret refused these bribes the company (**La Industrial Paraguaya**) tried to assassinate him.

Together with Bertotto, Barret co-founded the paper *Germinal*. It only came out twice before being closed down by the State. Barret was jailed for his libertarian activities and caught TB (tuberculosis) while in prison. The disease eventually proved fatal. After his release he was deported to Brasil but moved later to Argentina and then on to Montevideo (capital city of Uruguay) where he settled for several months. From here he returned secretly to Paraguay, settling in the countryside. By this stage he was losing strength as a direct result of his illness. Constant activity only made his condition worse and thwarted any chance of recovery. Barret continued to write, mainly for newspapers in Montevideo, and from the money he received he managed to support himself, his wife and a son Alex.

In June 1910 Barret saw his book *Moralidades Actuales – Morality Today* published and edited by O.M. Bertani. Despite the success of this book and others published after Barret's death, the author never received a penny of sales.

In a last ditch attempt to overcome his illness Barret travelled to France, his fare being paid by the newspapers he worked for. Barret died in December 1910, while undergoing medical treatment.

Despite the clarity, passion and calm-our for justice that runs through all of Barret's works he still remains relatively unknown (even within the Anarchist movement). The best homage we can pay him today is to continue his struggle read and circulate his extensive written works. We finish this article with a quote from the Argentine libertarian writer Herminia Brumana:

*I don't know of any other writer whose books can pick me up so consistently when I'm down. His optimism gives out life so strongly that it fills you with courage even when you feel ready to give up. After reading one of his books your eyes fill with tears and you feel a fervent desire to continue the struggle. . . It's useless trying to explain it. You have to read Barret's books with love.*

Source: Siracusa

## Nazis in the White House

**A member of the Star Wars (SDI) advisory team, Fritz Kraemer, was a former Nazi SS officer based at Dachau concentration camp. Over the past 30 years or so he has been employed by the Pentagon Plans Division.**

In 1946 Kraemer (then as a SS General), together with Franz Six, Klaus Barbie (the 'butcher of Lyon'), General Lucius Clay (US Army) and Henry Kissinger, were involved in the training of over 5000 German Nazis, East European fascists and US troops as part of a Special Forces anti-communist army based in Obergammerau. Kraemer, known to Kissinger since the war period, has since been an unofficial advisor to several US Secretaries of State, including Haig and Kissinger himself.

Another associate of Kissinger from his Nazi-association days was Walter Rauff, who was responsible for the 'mobile ovens' groups in Eastern Europe and who was appointed on Kissinger's advice as a special training consultant to DINA (Chilean Intelligence). Currently Kissinger is working with another former Nazi member as part of his recently appointed role as head of Reagan's Special Commission on Central America; namely, Harry Slatterman (formerly Schlauderman), who is a member of the Commission and who had previously worked for the CIA in Chile and also Guatamala. Higher up the power scale is Albert Wedemyer, now a Reagan advisor, who was formerly connected to the Nazi General Staff.

These instances of well known Nazis working directly or indirectly to the White House are by no means isolated examples. The rehabilitation of Nazis into organisations serving Western interests (eg Waldheim and the UN) goes as far back as 1943, when the OSS (now the CIA), together with British Intelligence, made overtures to people such as Karl Wolff, Walter Schellenberg, Klaus Barbie and Reinhard Gehlen and countless others to commence Operation Sunrise, the code name for a secret alliance between the OSS and the Nazis to investigate plans for future cooperation.

After the war many of the more important Nazis, such as Barbie and Boormann, eventually escaped to South America via the 'Rat Line' (the escape route set up with the help of Vatican resources, under the guidance of US Naval Intelligence and the CIC (US Counter Intelligence). The whole escape operation was code-named Operation Bernhard (after Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who himself was a Nazi collaborator). In the years to follow Nazis employed by Gehlen in his spy network were transferred to the CIA and to the Pentagon itself as well as to NASA (US space agancy) and now to the Star Wars project.

As for Reagan, during the 1950's he, as is is well known, became a leading lobbyist.

As for Reagan during the 1950s, he, as is well known, became a leading lobbyist on behalf of the McCarthyites. Reagan was also a member of the Free Europe Committee, a anti-communist organisation that worked for the de-sovietisation of Eastern Europe and which included in its ranks several leading nazi exiles.

During the 1960's Reagan employed as his personal secretary Helene von Damm, who was previously the personal secretary to Otto von Bolschwing, the boss of Adolph Eichmann, the war criminal, and the person who was in overall command of Operation Einsatzgruppen (death squads that operated in Eastern Europe). Von Bolschwing escaped the war trials and was secreted (together with von Damm) to the USA to work for a CIA front and as Reinhard Gehlen's main liaison man in the States. Eventually von Damm was promoted by Reagan to take charge of all White House appointments; she later became US Ambassador to Austria where she cultivated a close relationship with Kurt Waldheim, thus completing the circle.

And so it continues. Kraemer's son, Sven, is a member of the National Security Council; previously he was the person appointed by Reagan to undertake sabotage work on former president Jimmy Carter's 1980 presidential election campaign. Assisting Sven was Michael Ledeen, a one-time CIA desk chief in Turkey and who, as a disinformation specialist, was implicated in the conpiracy to link Bulgaria to the attempt by Acga on the life of Pope John Paul II. Ledeen is now an advisor to Reagan on terrorism.

Terrorism, along with the development of global weaponry systems, is a mainstream feature of the Reagan Administration's strategy for securing global cpntrol. In recent months SDI has taken in an alliance that bypasses NATO, but links together the super-technology anti-communist nations, eg the USA, Britain, W Germany, Japan (and possibly Australia) in a sort of Super Axis that could eventually provide that alliance with a weapons system that Herr Hitler may once have dreamt of but was several decades too early in achieving.

With help from Overthrow, USA.



# LATE NEWS

## Don't Talk To Strangers

### THREATS FROM EUROPEAN SECRET POLICE

**The West German secret police continued their personal vendetta against the Dutch anti-imperialist journal *De Knipselkrant* last September by trying to recruit its editor into the 'Gundesnachrichten Dienst' (German's Internal Security Service).**

Such blatent attempts to recruit police informers amongst the revolutionary left are rare and perhaps indicate the level of desperation reached within some Western European Security services faced with an upsurge in armed activities of groups like the Red Army Fraction, Action Directe and the CCC.

Our story begins on 2nd September of this year when Paul Moussault, editor of *De Knipselkrant*, received a telegram from West Germany telling him to go to Munchen immediately by plane. As a journalist on a magazine that specialises in printing communiques from leftist armed groups Paul saw nothing unusual in this request and arrived in Munich the same day.

> The recent attempt to pressurise Paul Moussalt into becoming a police informer is not an isolated incident. On 18th January 1985, for example, two cops visited Paul at his office to 'discuss' hunger-strikes taking place in West Germany, his supposed contact with the CCC, and with the 'legal RAF-Commando.'
>
> On 4 May 1986 police arrested Paul in connection with the arrest of Yu Kikumura. Kikumura was arrested on 1st May at Schiphol carrying one kilogram of TNT and six detonators. Police alleged that Paul Moussalt had some connection with Kikumura, but then released him on 23 May having obtained their evidence unlawfully.

On arrival Paul was approached near the airport arrival lounge by a man in his early thirties who would only identify himself as 'Klaus'. Although dressed in jeans and leather jacket, the man twice produced a identity card indicating he was a member of the security services.

He told Paul he was in 'great danger' and proposed they get together in a hotel (the rooms had been reserved) and later suggested they go to a restaurant and 'talk things over'.

When Paul refused point blank to enter into conversation with the cop and returned to the airport to phone his lawyer, Klaus began to get vexed.

It was then that he offered Paul a well-paid job ('for two or three years') as a police informer, including free travel and food. When Paul refused 'Klaus' began to ramble on about this and that, throwing into the conversation a few personal details about his 'guest' and *De Knipselkrant* – presumably to show how clever and knowledgeable he was He also asked a few direct questions ('Who is translating your A.D. Communiques these days?' etc) before disappearing after forty-five minutes of pleas, threats and 'suggestions'. His parting words were: 'All the best for the future – a future in which you will be able to think about all this for a very long time'.

### LIGNE ROUGE

Meanwhile in Belgium, the editors of *Ligne Rouge* (whose content is similar to that of *De Knipselkrant*) were arrested twice in three weeks recently and asked about their contact with Paul Moussault. The latter has been under constant police surveillance since his trip to Germany.

It seems journals like *De Knipselkrant* and *Ligne Rouge* have become the targets of police repression merely because they are sympathetic to armed struggle in Western Europe and beyond. We can only speculate on who the police take an interest in next.

Source: De Knipselkrant/RVF Press Office.

*(With thanks to Anarchy magazine).*

## In God We Trust ?

The infavous American organisation the 'Moral Majority' will be taking Jello Biafra, the singer of the Dead Kennedys, the punk band, to court for spreading 'damaging ideas to the underaged'. Jello along with four others involved in production and sales of the new record: *Bedroom for Democracy* are facing one year's imprisonment and a fine of $2,000 fine.

The Moral Majority is well-known for their processes forcing biology teachers to teach the bible's version of the beginning of the world. Amongst their ranks are fanatic religious fascists preaching from television. The many senator's wives in the organisation form the 'Parents Music Resource Centre' a group that pressure for official warnings on record covers comparable to film ratings. They pressurise record companies to ostracise marked artists in other words: back to the days of McCarthy's blacklists. The Dead Kennedys refuse to be intimidated or argue their innocence. They are defending themselves only on censorship being illegal.

## Far - Right in Border Patrols

**In a recent issue of *Black Flag (155)* we investigated the far-right US paramilitary organisation, Civil Military Assistance. That group is now actively engaged in vigilante patrols on the US-Mexico border as part of its expanding range of activities and has ambitions in southern Africa too. The CMA, as with its aid programme for Nicaraguan 'Contras', is acting with US government approval.**

Members of the CMA, carrying AK47 rifles, are not only trapping Mexicans who attempt to cross the border, but are now known to have opened fire on those who they can catch. Those involved wear camoflauge fatigues as well as KKK-style hoods. The patrols are being supervised by the CMA's regional controller, J. Hagen FBI agents have known about the CMA operation well in advance and the CMA were warned they could intervene providing they did not themselves cross the border to make arrests.

A report in a recent issue of *The Economist* magazine has confirmed the stories in *Black Flag* that the CMA is still involved in coordinating military and other supplies to Contra troops. *The Economist* however, did not go into the close relationship between the CMA and the US military establishment. Close links exist between the CMA and US Embassy officials in Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala. CMA agents are also heavily involved with a counter-insurgency training programme at the US Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg. Furthermore within the Central American orbit at least, the CMA has been promoted as the main mercenary arm of the World Anti-Communist League.

Latest reports confirm that the CMA is expanding its activities on a world-wide basis. It has ambitions in South East Asia and in southern Africa against the Front Line states that border South Africa. On their programme are contingency plans for massive mercenary intervention (a kind of rightist 'International Brigade') to aid the South African Apartheid regime should the civil war in South Africa spill into neighbouring territories or should the regime actually show signs of collapse.

The CMA is headed by Tom Possey, and is headquartered in North Alabama. It recruits not only from the main racist and far-right organisations (eg. the KKK, *Soldier of Fortune* etc.) but also from the US National Guard. As with the US war on Nicaragua (where, until the release of extra funds to the Contras, much of the CIA aid had been privatised via the mercenary organisations) so, too, in southern Africa CIA and CMA policy is to extend mercenary assistance until CIA direct intervention can be openly and officially sanctioned.

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### FASCIST BOMBER 'NOT A TERRORIST'

Anthony Lecomber, a member of the fascist British National Party, was recently found guilty making explosives at the Old Bailey and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Arrested last year after a home-made bomb exploded in his car three hundred yards away from the Workers Revolutionary Party office in South London, Lecomber claimed his interest in explosives was just a hobby and unconnected with his fascist beliefs.

Incredibly, Judge Richard Lowry accepted Lecomber's claims and acquitted him of the more serious charge of causing an explosion with intent to cause injury or endanger life. On sentencing he said 'I accept that you are not a terrorist. . . nor were you acting on behalf of some extreme political group.'

Police later found home-made grenades, explosive materials, detonators and petrol bombs at Lecomber's house. The Home-made bomb consisted of a biscuit tin packed with nearly one hundred nails. Philip Kersey, a founder member of the neo-nazi National Socialist Action Party, was acquitted of aiding and abetting Lecomber.

Had they been Anarchists. . .

### BOOK REVIEW

'In the summer of 1983 an abridged version of Stuart Christie's article on freemasonry "a wink, or nod. . . or a shake of the hand" appeared in *City Limits*, later reproduced in full in *Anarchy* No. 36' says the introduction to *The Secret Society of the Freemasons in Bradford*. Then there was Stephen Knight's book *The Brotherhood* which focussed attention on the subject. So some Bradford anarchists did a litfle spot of local investigation and came up with a remarkable survey of the secret brotherhood in Bradford. It is clear that Freemasonry is not merely as in the traditonal view, just a 'rich man's slate club'; it is a conspiracy to preserve capitalist society whilse subverting the general intersts of the public.

A terrific effort from the 1-in-12 Club (in co-operation with KDIS) Price $3. Editor: A. Cowan.

### SICK OF WAGE SLAVERY

According to latest government figures 227 million working days are lost yearly due to dickies. This is 4½% of the total of working days. Strikes only add up to a loss of 2.4 million days off.

## Plessey worker jailed in Benghazi

*Continued from Front Page*

But to the Libyan authorities he is a representative of Imperialism, Capitalism and the rest. His wife is suffering too – everybody reads of espionage, terrorism and State double-dealing, no-one expects it will come out of the TV and enter their lives. She has shut herself up in a darkened house and is frightened to see anyone or to take telephone calls.

The British press is, so far as we know, ignoring the matter. Pressure has to be put on the Libyan authorities via their friends in this country to put in a word for James Abra, or be written off as anti-working class organisations. We don't know if he was a union member, or if he was one of those technological bods who consider they are above needing one – he's described to us as an 'absent professor type'. If he belonged to a halfway decent union they should act – or be pressurised to do so – but we don't know.

The Libyan authorities are funding the Workers Revolutionary Party, the IRA (legal and Sinn Fein) and many other bodies. It is they who must be held accountable for the vicious attack on an individual worker's life and liberty if they fail to tell their friends in power in Libya what any worker here would think of them in this regard. Write to them. Put pressure on them. Maybe they might even be sympathetic. If not denounce them. Even if they get the glory for the release, who cares? Otherwise a perfectly innocent worker is going to rot to death in Benghazi jail.